(iii) replacing the harvested biomass with about an equivalent amount of complex axenic culture medium.

16. The fermentation process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the ciliates belong to one of the taxonomic groups Holotricha, Peritricha, Spirotricha and Suctoria, including the orders Tetrahymena, Paramecium, Colpoda, Glaucoma, Parauronema, Engelmanniella, Stylonichia, Euplotes and Colpidium, which include, in addition to the wild-type strains, also mutants and/or recombinants of these strains.

17. The fermentation process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the fermentation is carried out in a stirred or bubble column or airlift fermenter.

18. The fermentation process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the fermentation is carried out at a pH in the range from pH 4 to pH 9 and/or a fermentation temperature in the range from about 15 to about 40°C.

19. The fermentation process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the medium contains a carbon source which comprises one or more substances from the group consisting of: glucose, fructose, xylose, sucrose, maltose, starch, fucose, glucosamine, lactose, molasses, dextran, fatty acids, soya oil, sunflower oil, glycerol, glutamic acid, mannitol, skim-milk powder and acetate.

20. The fermentation process as claimed in claim 18, wherein the concentration of the carbon source has a value in the range from about 0.2 to about 20% by weight, based on the culture medium.

21. The fermentation process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the medium contains a nitrogen source which comprises one or more substances from the group consisting of: peptones, yeast extract, malt extract, meat extract, skim-milk powder, casamino acid, corn steep liquor, Na-glutamate, urea, ammonium acetate, ammonium sulfate, ammonium chloride and ammonium nitrate.

22. The fermentation process as claimed in claim 21, wherein the concentration of the nitrogen source has a value in the range from about 0.1 to about 10% by weight, based on the culture medium.

23. The fermentation process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the medium contains at least one phosphate source, preferably potassium phosphate and/or potassium dihydrogen phosphate.

24. The fermentation process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the medium contains one or more substances selected from the group consisting of ammonium sulfate, sodium sulfate, magnesium, iron, copper, calcium, vitamins, and trace elements.

25. The fermentation process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 10, wherein the medium contains killed biomass of feed organisms for ciliates.

26. The fermentation process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the cells contained in the harvested biomass are separated off from the culture medium by centrifugation and/or tangential filtration and/or microfiltration and/or sedimentation and/or flotation.

27. The fermentation process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the biogenous substance is one or more substance from the group consisting of: peptides, proteins, enzymes, fatty acids, lipids, polysaccharides, nucleic acids, secondary metabolites and polymers.

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 have been cancelled. New claims 15 –27 have been added. Support for new claims 15-27 may be found, for example, in original claims 1-14, as well as the specification at page 3 lines 16-17 and the passage running from page 4 line 22 through page 6 line 8. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Rejection of claim 1

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, asserting